

corresponding to the large diameter opposite end portions of the core, the gap between the charging rollers and the photosensitive element remains substantially constant.

For example, as is described in the non-limiting embodiment of Figure 16, and as is described in the paragraph bridging pages 30 and 31 of the specification, because the ends 86a of the metallic core 86 have a larger diameter, and because the elastic member 17" has the same outside diameter throughout its length, the elastic member has a reduced thickness t_1 in the region of the end portions 86a. Therefore, these reduced thickness portions deform to a lesser extent at the films 18, and so the gap G between the charging roller and the drum 5 is maintained more constant, despite the pressure applied by the springs 19.

Kisu is directed to a charging roller which generally corresponds to the prior art of Figures 1 and 2. That is, a *constant diameter* core 2a is provided with a surrounding elastic member 2b. *There are no larger diameter opposite end portions for the metallic core*, and so the "films" 2c of Kisu are not wrapped around portions of the elastic member at positions corresponding to the non-existent larger diameter opposite end portions of the core. Accordingly, Claims 51 and 52 clearly define over Kisu.

According to paragraph 6 of the Office Action, Claim 53 (misidentified as Claim 52) is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by the Japanese publication 4-360168 (Miyake et al). Claim 52 is directed to a feature of the invention whereby the charging roller is comprised by a metallic core covered by an elastic member, and a stripe-like or wire-like *spacer* member is spirally wrapped around the elastic member to maintain the constant gap. This is shown for example, in the non-limiting embodiment of Figure 17, wherein the spacer member 98 maintains a constant gap between the charging roller and the photosensitive element (see page 32, lines 1-12; page 35, lines 14-17).

The Examiner has alleged that Miyake et al discloses a stripe-like or wire-like *spacer* members spirally wrapped around a charging roller in Figures 2 and 4.

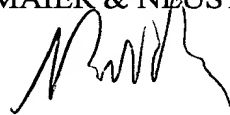
However, Miyake et al does not disclose the provision of a spiral-shaped *spacer* member. Instead, the spiral element shown in Figure 2 (Figure 4 merely discloses a graph) is described as having a cleaning --not spacer-- function. That is, the spiral projection is a stationary projection which eliminates residue from the roll as it rotates. Therefore, the spiral of Miyake et al cannot function as a spacer member, and so Claim 53 clearly defines over this reference, as well.

The title of the invention has been revised as required.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please change the title to read:

[CHARGING DEVICE FOR AN IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS AND]

CHARGING ROLLER THEREFOR]

--CHARGING ROLLER HAVING ELASTIC MEMBER--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 51 as follows:

--51. (Amended) A charging roller facing a surface of a body to be charged and applied with a voltage, said charging roller comprising:

a metallic core including axially opposite end portions larger in diameter than the other portion;

an elastic member covering said core;

the elastic member provided on said core, including said opposite end portions, such that said elastic member has a same outside diameter throughout an entire length in an axial direction; and

films respectively wrapped around portions of said elastic member corresponding to said opposite end portions of said core.--